

II. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A medication organizing system for manually preparing sealed packages of medication for their daily dosages comprising:

a plurality of hoppers in a linear arrangement;

a plurality of nozzles, each of said nozzles associated with one of said hoppers;

a passageway between each of said hoppers and ~~said~~ the associated nozzle;

a manually operated hopper door for simultaneously opening said passageways

between each of said hoppers and ~~said~~ the associated nozzle;

a multi-compartmented container, said multi-compartmented container

comprising a plurality of packages in a linear arrangement, said packages being of a size and alignment to allow each of said packages to be placed with one of said nozzles such

that each of said packages can simultaneously receive a plurality of various sized pills from one of said hoppers; and

a heat sealing arrangement ^{on each} for simultaneously sealing each of said packages.

2. (withdrawn) A multi-compartmented container, said container consisting of:

seven packages arranged side by side in a linear arrangement;

said packages being of a size and alignment to allow said container to be lifted onto and envelope seven nozzles;

said packages marked on their front surface with the days of the week;

said front surface of said packages capable of accepting ink from a pen or marker;

said packages including a space on said front surface for the date to be written;
said front surface of said packages including check blocks for marking the
medication period of the day;
said packages providing a sealing area for sealing;
said packages having a transparent rear wall which allows viewing of any
medications within said packages; and
said container having tear areas between said packages to permit their separation
from the remainder of said container.

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3. (withdrawn) The multi-compartmented container of claim 2 wherein the front
wall of said packages preferably include an inner layer of clear Surlyn™ and an outer
layer of aluminum foil and said rear wall includes a single layer of Surlyn™.

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4. (withdrawn) The multi-compartmented container of claim 2 wherein the bottom
of said packages include a gusset.

5. The medication organizing system of claim 1 wherein ^{each of} said packages are
preferably 1.625 inches wide and 2.75 inches deep.

6. The medication organizing system of claim 1 wherein said sealing ^{means} (arrangement)
is a heat sealing unit comprising:

a metal strip capable of being electrically heated;

a hinged cover;
a heat sensor disposed within said cover; and
a light or LED connected to said sensor, said light or LED changing state when said sensor detects that the packages have achieved an optimal sealing temperature.

7. (canceled)

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8. (withdrawn) The multi-compartmented container of claim 2 wherein the front wall of said packages has a U-shaped area removed to enable easier opening of said packages.

cont
9. The medication organizing system of claim 1 wherein said nozzles have an angled surface at the discharge end.

10. (withdrawn) The multi-compartmented container of claim 2 wherein said packages include tear notches below said sealing area to enable easy opening of said packages.

11. (withdrawn) A method of organizing medications including the steps of:
providing a medication sorting and dispensing unit having a plurality of hoppers, a vertical nozzle extending from each of said hoppers, an internal passageway between each of said hoppers and said nozzles, a plurality of hopper doors for simultaneously

closing or opening said passageways between said hoppers and said nozzles, and a shelf disposed under said nozzles;

providing a multi-compartmented packaging container, said container consisting of a plurality of bags arranged side by side in a linear arrangement, said bags of a size and alignment to allow said container to be lifted onto said nozzles such that each of said bags conforms to and envelops one of said nozzles and said container rests on said shelf, said bags marked on their front surface with the days of the week, said front surface of said bags capable of accepting ink from a pen or marker, said bags including a space on said front surface for the date to be written, said front surface of said bags including check blocks for marking the medication period of the day;

providing an electrical supply;

providing a sealing arrangement for sealing said packaging container, said sealing arrangement including a metal strip capable of being resistively heated by said electrical supply, a hinged cover, a heat sensor disposed within said cover, and a light or LED connected to said sensor, said light or LED changing state when said sensor senses the proper sealing temperature for said packaging container;

activating said electrical supply;

lifting said container onto said nozzles, each of said bags marked with the days of the week therefore associated with one of said hoppers;

closing said doors;

placing one or more tabular or capsular medications in each hopper, said medications corresponding to the preferred dosage for said associated day and a given

time of day;

opening said doors simultaneously thereby allowing said medications to fall into said bags;

removing said container from said nozzles;

opening the cover of said sealing arrangement;

placing said container into said sealing arrangement such that said metal strip is positioned near the open end of said bags;

pressing said hinged cover upon said container thereby sealing said open ends of said bags;

writing the appropriate date on said space on said front surface of each of said bags;

marking one of said check blocks thereby identifying the medication period of the day.
